

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

"Believe never seems to have any enemies in his circle." "No, he just won't loan money."—X. Y. Sun.

"I've got an idea for making automobiles safe." "What is it?" "Let 'em run in a brick tunnel with lots of manholes for the spectators to look through."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Proved It.—Mean Old Man—"I don't believe your story, nor believe that you are blind. Prove it." Beggar—"If I wasn't blind I never would have asked you for assistance."—Detroit Free Press.

Ascum—"I don't see why you patronize that cigar store. They give you a pretty poor weed there." Grapiter—"I know, but they keep a big box of matches on the counter and you can take all you want."—Philadelphia Press.

"Flora," said Mrs. Stuyvesant, "I don't want you to call me 'mum-ma' any more. I want you to call me 'mam-mah.'" "All right," said Flora, cheerily. "I will. But if I call you 'mam-mah,' you must call me 'Flora.'"—Somerville Journal.

"You say you're hungry," said the pedestrian who had just been halted. "Well, why don't you go to work?" "Because I'm afraid that would make my appetite more troublesome than ever, sir," replied the tramp in a dignified manner.—Syracuse Herald.

"I don't see why Shoddyman is kicking so about the way the firemen deluged his factory with water. They got the fire out all right before it did much damage." "Yes, but the water ruined his stock." "What does he manufacture?" "Umbrellas."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

One Interpretation of It—"O for a lodge in some vast wilderness!" he quoted. They looked at him in surprise. "Evidently," said the thoughtful one, "he is mercenary." "Why do you infer that?" asked the other. "I infer from his remark that he wants to be a millionaire sportsman."—Chicago Post.

A GREAT MONEY-LENDER.

John Bull as Uncle—Almost Every Country in the World is His Debtor.

There is not a country in the world which has not had to borrow money from Great Britain, and there are few governments which have not had to fall back on John Bull when they've been in queer street.

Guatemala, declares Pearson's Weekly, has borrowed a large amount of British capital. How do matters stand to-day? The bonds for £100 are worth somewhere about £23 only, and there has been no payment of interest since June, 1899. Even then only a paltry two per cent, was paid, and half of that was not in cash. Honduras is a far worse debtor. The bonds which have a face value of £100 are dear at £5. All this is owing to the fact that Honduras spends far more than it earns.

Columbia, strictly speaking, owes British investors \$3,500,000. Nearly the whole of these debts are due to British creditors. This particular republic, in 1897, called its creditors together and made them an offer of a composition of so much in the pound. It wiped out its old debt by giving new bonds for \$2,700,000, on which it paid 1½ per cent. interest. Even other countries, about which we know far more, such as Greece and Turkey, are almost as bad. A Greek £100 bond is worth from £31 to £44, according to its class. A Turkish bond, "series D," is worth but £26. That is why British creditors sigh.

Greece owes her existence to John Bull. Then the money she owes him! This must amount to somewhere about two and a half millions, excluding the loan of 1898, all of which is gone hopelessly. The latter loan was one of \$5,000,000, and was guaranteed by Britain, France and Russia, each country being liable for a third of it. Should France and Russia decide to renounce their liability, poor old John will have to go bail for the full amount. Likely this loan will never be repaid.

Greece's old taskmaster is another unfortunate debtor. In 1881 the Ottoman government, being unable to meet its liabilities, was obliged to call together its creditors in order to enter into an arrangement with them. John Bull must have a sum of about \$4,000,000 owing to him by Turkey. The sum is the balance still owing of a loan of \$5,000,000 made in 1855 in order to help Turkey to fight Russia.

Egypt owes a loan obtained so recently as 1897. In John Bull's account of his expenditure there is a heading: "Special Services: Egyptian Government, Grant in Aid." Under this is an amount of £708,502.

This is because John lent Egypt something better than mere money. He lent her men with brains, who have made her into a healthy, prosperous country of the sort that pay off their debts in full. Egypt has other debts than monetary debts to pay off.

Seen on the Trolley Line.

It is a rather interesting sight to watch the efforts of a short motor-man when he attempts to hold in the circuit-breaker with one hand, and manipulate his controller and ring the gong, all at the same time. The fact that the circuit-breaker is installed to prevent excessive currents from passing through the motors adds zest to the exhibition.—Electric Review.

Correctly Diagnosed.

Naggsby—I noticed that Fethered used vinegar instead of maple drip on his cakes at breakfast, and didn't seem to notice the difference at all.

Waggaby—I wonder who the poor girl can be?—London Globe.

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The panic of 1873 came under a full republican rule; the panic of 1893 came under full democratic rule. And here you are.

LIFE UP ON GAME OF CARDS.

Veracity Club Hears How Muleteers Amused Themselves During a Trip to South Africa.

They had been speaking of experiences during the trips made to South Africa while the war was going on, and the curious way in which muleteers often amused themselves, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

"That reminds me of the heaviest wager I ever made," said one of the group, "and when I tell you that my life was upon a game of cards you will understand just how I felt for awhile at least. We had all become a little sick of our bargain and had that wild, desperate sort of feeling which impels a man to join a suicide club or do something equally as foolish, so when it was suggested that we enter into a game of cards and stake our lives on the result we thought we would try the thing once, just for luck.

"We agreed to play a series of games to run through three days, and at the end of the third day the man furthest behind was to be counted the loser and dumped overboard. The terms were agreed to without a whimper. The playing began promptly and progressed without a hitch. At the end of the third day we began to count up. It was a period of great anxiety for all of us, for no man knew just how he stood in the game. You can bet I felt cold about the spine.

"Finally the result was announced. A skinny, pale-faced cadaver was the unlucky man, and I was a close second. The loser accepted the announcement with composure. We at once set about to carry out the terms of the agreement. Without much ceremony we simply dumped the man overboard. We turned our faces from the scene as quickly as possible, for we did not care to see our late comrade struggling in the water, and did not want to hear his cries for help.

After a slight pause the narrator went on: "We went on to South Africa. We tried to forget the little incident, but to save my soul I could not help thinking of the poor fellow we had thrown into the sea. Here is where the strange part of the tale comes in. When on my way back somehow I knew when we got to the place where we had dumped our friend into the sea. The moon was up, and the water was shimmering as brightly as if it had been surfaced with the molten silver. Almost in the shadow of the ship I saw on the crest of a wave the calm, contented face of my friend, serene in its resignation, infinite in its placidity, as it rose and fell with the swash of the tide. But the ship kept on, and we soon passed out of sight.

The crowd yawned. "Losing the game and being dumped into the sea was not so bad," said the lean, lank member, "but honestly, I lost my temper when you refused to pick me up on your trip back, for I had to stay in the water a week longer before the next ship came along." And the Veracity club adjourned without date.

TWO SOURCES OF GERMS.

Moistening Lead Pencils with Lips and Biting Church Fans Cause Much Trouble.

"Great attention should be given to two apparently unimportant things which I assure you can and frequently do cause no end of trouble," said one of Washington's best known physicians one day, according to the Star. "The trouble is seldom traced to its source, viz, the lead pencil evil and the biting at the rim of the fans which are placed in the pews of churches for the accommodation of the congregation. The lead pencil evil seems to be principally confined to women and children. In a moment of hurry a woman will borrow a pencil from an unkempt man whose pencil for the most part occupies the space behind his ear.

"At the request for the pencil out it comes, and the fastidious lady who dreads the street cars and will ride on the open cars all winter, because she fears close contact with the passengers, will straightway moisten the lead with her lips, and proceed to write a perfectly contented frame of mind, making repeated trips to her mouth with the pencil. Children seem to be of the belief that it is next to impossible to write with a lead pencil until they have wet the lead in their mouths.

"And about fans, have you ever noticed how most people will bite and bite on a fan that in every way bears the evidence of old age, and of having been bitten many times? It seems to make no difference in the world—the fact that the fans are common property and that they as much belong to the tobacco-chewing men as they do to the sweet-faced, refined, dainty women, does not matter. They seem to be happy in the pastime of biting indefinitely.

"When sores appear that do not come from fever, were I to suggest such a source as I have just described, nervous prostration would be the result in many cases."

A Queer Clock.

A naturalist, while visiting one of the Celebes islands, found a curious time recorder lodged at the house of a rajah. Two bottles were firmly lashed together and fixed in a wooden frame. Some black sand ran from one bottle into the other in just half an hour, and when the upper bottle was empty the frame was reversed. Twelve short sticks, marked with notches from one to 12, were hung upon a string. A hook was placed between the stick bearing the number of notches corresponding to the hour last struck, and the one to be struck next. The sentry announced the time by striking the hour on a large gong.—London Globe.

Heads Should Never Ache.

Never endure this trouble. Use at once the remedy that stopped it for Mrs. N. A. Webster, of Winfield, Va., she writes: "Dr. King's New Life Pills wholly cured me of sick headaches I had suffered from for two years." Cure Headache, Constipation, Biliousness, 25c at Arcadia Valley Drug Co.

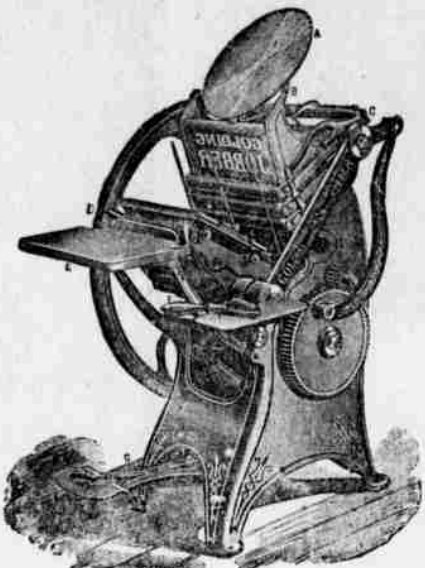
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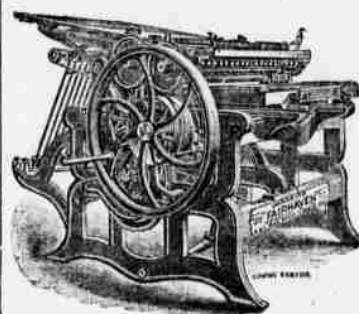
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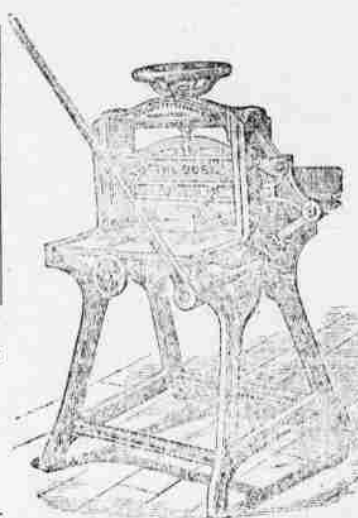


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THE DEFECT IN THE RECORD.

English and French Rather Mixed in the Minutes of a Religious Conference.

At a Baptist convention recently held in the south the minutes of the first day were recorded by a man of calm and deliberate speech, while one of the speakers of the occasion was a quick-tempered gentleman named French. By some oversight no record was made in the minutes of Mr. French's words, and when the minutes were read next day Mr. French was quickly on his feet, with the remark that he objected to the minutes being accepted.

"On what grounds do you object?" questioned the presiding officer.

"I object to the English; the report is not in good English," said the gentleman.

A pause ensued, while everybody looked at the recording secretary, who slowly rose to his feet.

"Well, gentlemen," he remarked, in calm, deliberate fashion, "I won't defend the English of the report, but I admit there was no French in it."

A burst of merriment greeted his words, and the minutes were accepted.



Mrs. Fred Unrath.

President Country Club, Benton Harbor, Mich.

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